Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (CANCEL)

2. (CANCEL)

3. (CANCEL)

4. (PRESENTLY AMENDED) A liquid crystal display device, comprising:

a first substrate and a second substrate at least one of which is transparent;

a liquid crystal layer interposed between the first and second substrates, the layer being made of a nematic liquid crystal material having a positive dielectric anisotropy;

a first electrode and a second electrode provided on the first and second substrates, respectively, for applying an electric field substantially vertical to the first and second substrates across the liquid crystal layer;

a first polarizing plate and a second polarizing plate each provided on an outer side of respective one of the first and second substrates, the first and second polarizing plates being arranged in a crossed Nicols arrangement; and

a first phase difference compensator provided between the first polarizing plate and the first substrate, and a second phase difference compensator provided between the second polarizing plate and the second substrate, wherein the phase-delay axes of the first and second phase difference compensators are parallel to each other and perpendicular to a phase-delay axis of the liquid crystal layer, wherein:

the liquid crystal layer in each pixel region includes at least a first domain and a second domain in which liquid crystal molecules are oriented in different orientations; and

the first and second phase difference compensator compensate ~~compensates~~ for the refractive index anisotropy of the liquid crystal molecules in a substantially horizontal orientation with respect to the surfaces of the first and second substrates in the absence of the applied voltage.

5. (ORIGINAL) A liquid crystal display device according to claim 4, wherein:

the first and second substrates are both transparent; and

the phase difference compensator comprises a first phase difference compensator provided between the first substrate and the first polarizing plate and a second phase difference compensator provided between the second substrate and the second polarizing plate.

6. (ORIGINAL) A liquid crystal display device according to claim 5, wherein:

the first and second phase difference compensators each have a positive refractive index anisotropy; and

phase-delay axes of the first and second phase difference compensators are substantially parallel to each other and substantially perpendicular to a phase-delay axis of the liquid crystal layer in the absence of an applied voltage.

7. (ORIGINAL) A liquid crystal display device according to claim 6, wherein:

a third phase difference compensator is further provided between the first phase difference compensator and the first polarizing plate;

the third phase difference compensator has a positive refractive index anisotropy; and

a phase-delay axis of the third phase difference compensator is substantially perpendicular to the first and second substrates.

8. (ORIGINAL) A liquid crystal display device according to claim 7, wherein:

a fourth phase difference compensator is further provided between the second phase difference compensator and the second polarizing plate;

the fourth phase difference compensator has a positive refractive index anisotropy; and

a phase-delay axis of the fourth phase difference compensator is substantially perpendicular to the first and second substrates.

9. (ORIGINAL) A liquid crystal display device according to claim 8, wherein:

a fifth phase difference compensator is provided between the first phase difference compensator and the third phase difference compensator;

a sixth phase difference compensator is provided between the second phase difference compensator and the fourth phase difference compensator;

the fifth and sixth phase difference compensators each have a positive refractive index anisotropy;

a phase-delay axis of the fifth phase difference compensator is substantially perpendicular to a polarization axis of the first polarizing plate; and

a phase-delay axis of the sixth phase difference compensator is substantially perpendicular to a polarization axis of the second polarizing plate.

10. (ORIGINAL) A liquid crystal display device according to claim 4, wherein:

directors of the liquid crystal molecules in the first and second domains in the middle of the liquid crystal layer along a thickness direction thereof rise in respective directions which are different from each other by about 180°; and

the directions are at about 45° with respect to the polarization axis of each of the first and second polarizing plates.

11. (ORIGINAL) A liquid crystal display device according to claim 4, wherein the liquid crystal molecules in the first and second domains are in a horizontal orientation.

12. (ORIGINAL) A liquid crystal display device according to claim 4, wherein the liquid crystal molecules in the first and second domains are in a twist orientation.

13. (ORIGINAL) A liquid crystal display device according to claim 11, wherein pre-tilt angles of the liquid crystal molecules on the first and second substrates in the first domain are different from those in the second domain.

14. (ORIGINAL) A liquid crystal display device according to claim 12, wherein pre-tilt angles of the liquid crystal molecules on the first and second substrates in the first domain are different from those in the second domain.

15. (ORIGINAL) A liquid crystal display device according to claim 4, wherein the liquid crystal layer in each pixel region includes a plurality of the first domains and a plurality of the second domains, the number of the first domains being the same as the number of the second domains.

16. (ORIGINAL) A liquid crystal display device according to claim 4, wherein a total area of the first domains is equal to that of the second domains.